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Summary record of the 10th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 15 October 2001, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Oda (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Egypt)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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01-58044 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Al-Hinai (Oman), Mr. Oda (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 110: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/56/3, 83, 151, 155, 222, 380, A/56/402-E/2001/105 and A/56/403)

Agenda item 111: International drug control (*continued*) (A/56/3, 83, 157 and 227)

1. **Ms. Durrant** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the 14 member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that were Members of the United Nations, said that the worldwide drug problem had assumed frightening new proportions in the era of globalization. Traffickers were exploiting new developments which facilitated the free movement of people and goods across borders, and had taken advantage of the technological and communications revolution to consolidate linkages between illicit drugs, money-laundering, traffic in arms and other forms of transnational criminal activities. The need for clear and innovative strategic responses could not be more urgent. The historic Millennium Summit remained a fundamental point of reference for the CARICOM States; it had reaffirmed the global commitment to countering the world drug problem at the highest political level. Achieving measurable results in the fight against crime and illicit drugs required the highest level of international commitment and cooperation and the first steps had been taken. The true test would be the efforts made in coming years to fulfil the goals set.

2. The geographical location of the Caribbean States, with their attractiveness to traffickers as a trans-shipment point for illicit drugs, had compounded regional security concerns, particularly in light of the linkage between drugs, corruption, money-laundering and small arms. The threat to State legitimacy and regional stability arising from criminal activities associated with the drug trade, the effect of drug abuse on the region's youth and the disintegration of communities and social structures were among the most urgent concerns. The small economies of the Caribbean were particularly vulnerable to those problems, and CARICOM had therefore implemented a number of regional and bilateral initiatives aimed at strengthening national capacities to deal with them. Such initiatives were complemented by a broad spectrum of donor-support programmes in the areas of money-laundering, small-arms control and drug-abuse reduction.

3. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and donor Governments played an important role in providing critical technical and financial support in those areas; the traditionally close and active working relationship between the CARICOM States and UNDCP had been a vitally important element in drug-control programmes. As a new policy response, CARICOM had also attempted to focus primary attention on integrating education and health with communication with a view to promoting behavioural change and demand reduction, particularly among young people. An intergovernmental task force on drugs had been established as the regional coordinating mechanism to formulate an integrated counter-narcotics policy. The task force was collaborating with several regional partners in the wider Caribbean area, and maritime cooperation was a primary element in that effort.

4. Trafficking in drugs was both a manifestation and a source of social and economic burdens, which threatened the sustainable development of States and, by extension, the maintenance of law and order, sustainable peace and personal security. If the international community was to achieve success in the fight against drugs, the development agenda must be a primary and fundamental point of departure. The CARICOM States were acutely aware that poverty, social and economic disparities and development concerns arising from constraints on international trade and disadvantageous economic and financial structures must become a primary pillar of the response by the international community. Where international economic and trading regimes contributed to undermining growth and development, the resulting social dislocation, unemployment and economic stagnation were likely to fuel the traffic in drugs as an alternative source of income generation. There was therefore an economic and moral imperative to address the drug problem on all fronts. Given the role of poverty in contributing to the drug trade, CARICOM also wished to signal the urgency of highlighting alternative development as a primary policy focus. The international community must develop and improve efforts to integrate the most vulnerable social sectors involved in the illicit drug trade through legal and viable economic activities. Regrettably, the role of

UNDCP in promoting such programmes had often been hampered by the lack of resources.

5. The changing nature of organized crime threatened stability, democracy and development. Organized criminal groups now had at their disposal new and more effective tools optimizing their efficiency in perpetuating the most heinous criminal activities. Those networks were more flexible, organized and efficient, better financed, more technologically advanced and harder to detect. The tragic events of 11 September 2001 were a painful reminder of the devastation and mass destruction that criminals could wreak if they were not stopped through effective global responses. A number of CARICOM States had recently signed the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, annexed to General Assembly resolution 55/25. While the Convention did not explicitly address the link between terrorist groups and organized criminal networks, it created a useful platform for improving the fight against crime, and her delegation looked forward to further international efforts to address the scourge of terrorism. The Convention should also be a catalyst for the elaboration of a comprehensive international instrument against corruption, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/61.

6. Success in the fight against transnational organized crime depended largely on the ability of States to achieve equitable growth, integrate themselves into the global economy in a manner consistent with their economic and social policy objectives and ensure that their populations benefited equitably from new opportunities for empowerment and technological advancement. An effective battle against transnational organized crime could not be carried on in an environment in which local institutional capacity was constrained by lack of expertise, as in many developing countries. She therefore welcomed the inclusion in the Convention of provisions to enhance capacity-building, technical assistance and information exchange among States parties.

7. Crime prevention in the Caribbean region had been seriously compounded by the flow of illicit arms. The time had come for the international community to consider measures to limit weapons production to levels that met defence and national-security needs. CARICOM firmly supported domestic and international regulations to stem the leakage of trade in legal weapons to illegal markets. In conclusion, she placed on record the appreciation of CARICOM member States for the support given by UNDCP to government efforts to combat transnational organized crime and illegal drugs.

8. **Mr. Xie** Bohua (China) said that illicit drugs were the enemy of human society, affecting development, social stability and mankind's future. Over the years, the international community had achieved encouraging results in combating production of and trafficking in illicit drugs and reducing demand for them. In general, however, cultivation, production and consumption of illicit drugs were spreading. As the world economy became ever more globalized, drug-related crimes were taking on an organized, international and professional character. It was imperative for the international community to recognize the phenomenon for what it was and adopt timely countermeasures, strengthen international cooperation against drugs and combat drug-related crimes.

9. The special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug programme together had set out measures and goals which his Government had made great efforts to implement. In 1999 China had launched nationwide activities with the theme "a drug-free community", focusing on youth education, prevention and increased efforts to reduce demand. In 2000, his Government had issued a white paper on combating illicit drugs, comprehensively laying out its position, measures taken and achievements. During the current year, China's law-enforcement authorities had adopted a policy of cutting off the source and stopping the flow of illicit drugs and had achieved outstanding results. In the first half of 2001, 6.2 tons of heroin and 2.9 tons of "ice" had been confiscated.

10. Illicit drugs were a social problem closely related to all aspects of social life. Combating illicit drugs required participation by society as a whole. Relying on social strengths, resorting to legal, administrative, economic and educational means, and adopting a holistic approach were all effective ways to tackle the problem of illicit drugs. However, it was also a global problem requiring international cooperation. China participated actively in such cooperation, working closely with UNDCP and with many other countries. His Government continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Lao People's Democratic

Republic, Myanmar and Thailand in combating illicit drugs, and a ministerial meeting on the subject, attended by the four countries, had taken place in Beijing in August 2001 to establish partnership among them and to stipulate specific areas of cooperation.

11. A resolute struggle against illicit drugs had always been his Government's position. As long as there were illicit drugs, the struggle would not cease. China was ready to join other countries in striving to eradicate that scourge and create a drug-free future for mankind.

12. **Mr. Osmane** (Algeria) said it was widely recognized that drug abuse and trafficking posed a grave danger to humanity, particularly young people and children. International efforts in response to that threat, particularly those agreed on at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, reflected widespread awareness of the need to take global, integrated action to reduce drug abuse and eliminate illicit trafficking. The various measures agreed on, particularly the creation at the national, regional and international levels of strategies and plans of action, required widespread support to the countries involved in the struggle as well as the promotion at the international level of legal cooperation and strengthening of cross-border controls.

13. His delegation was pleased to note that national strategies to eliminate the cultivation of illicit crops through substitution had received bilateral and multilateral support, with very encouraging results. The latter were, however, geographically limited and concerned only certain types of drugs. In Africa, for example, hopes to eliminate illicit crops such as cannabis were handicapped by lack of international financing and technical support. Moreover, its deteriorating economic situation, worsening poverty and armed conflicts had fed various kinds of illicit and speculative activities. The African States had decided to face their responsibilities and tackle the scourge at the local and regional levels. Within the framework of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), a five-year plan had been adopted at Algiers in February 2000. The plan recommended to OAU member States that they should ratify the various United Nations drug conventions and set up legal-cooperation programmes. That plan should be fully supported by the United Nations system, particularly UNDCP, which should be congratulated for the remarkable work it was achieving.

14. Although it had not reached alarming proportions in Algeria, the abuse and trafficking in drugs were a matter of major concern for his Government, which had adopted a series of measures to reduce demand and supply as well as trafficking. A national seminar on the issue of drugs had been held in June 2001 in Algiers, attended by specialists as well as United Nations representatives. Algeria had become a drug-transit country and had repeatedly drawn the international community's attention to the connection between terrorism and organized transnational crime.

15. The recent adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols reflected the determination of the international community to combat criminality in all its forms. His Government fully supported current efforts to prepare a new and effective international legal instrument against corruption, as called for in General Assembly resolution 55/61. Such an instrument must not neglect aspects related to the illicit transfer or repatriation of funds.

16. Transnational crime represented a real danger to the stability of human society. It endangered public health, general well-being, the full enjoyment of human rights and the security of goods and persons. Algeria — itself affected by a particularly violent form of terrorism with well-known international ramifications — was determined to take part in all coordinated and collective measures enabling humanity as a whole to deal with such threats.

17. **Ms. Ahmed** (Sudan) said that her delegation considered international drug control a joint responsibility that required an integrated, balanced approach fully in accord with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter and in international law, and in particular, full respect for all human rights and for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. The Sudan, as a party to the international drug-control conventions, joined the international community in calling for the use of every means to fight the drug scourge nationally and internationally.

18. The use of laundered funds derived from drug traffic for illegal activities, such as the financing of armed rebel movements against legitimate Governments, jeopardized international peace and security, as could be seen in Africa in the aggravation

of struggles in which such movements were playing the primary role in destroying peace. Cooperation between the international community and the competent United Nations organizations was essential in order to identify and dry up those sources of funds and tackle the drug issue with determination in accordance with the relevant international instruments.

19. Her country was one of the few in which the drug problem had not reached dangerous proportions, though its geographic situation would seem to invite the use of its land for drug transit and contraband. The Sudan's efforts in that sphere included the enactment of a number of drug-control laws, some of which provided the death penalty for the crime of drug trafficking.

20. The Sudan had created numerous organs to combat crime, was a member of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and had acceded to all the international treaties on international cooperation against crime, including those on money-laundering and trafficking in human organs. It had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and supported national and international efforts to eradicate organized crime and accelerate the implementation of the recommendations of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Her delegation also supported the drafting of an effective international legal instrument against corruption, especially since funds obtained by corrupt means by certain rebel movements helped perpetuate the illegal activities of those movements.

21. **Mr. Moniaga** (Indonesia) said that great strides had been made in the global response to combat the global scourges of crime and drugs; cooperation and coordination had been strengthened at the international, regional and bilateral levels. His delegation hoped that the important legal instruments adopted recently would enable the international community to address crime prevention in a global manner and that the transnational measures agreed upon would provide a firm foundation for a truly global response.

22. The United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention had played an important role in supporting the elaboration and ratification of international legal instruments. It should continue to receive sufficient support in its effort to provide technical assistance to Governments in curbing corruption. Equally important to his delegation was the General Assembly's decision in resolution 55/61 to convene an intergovernmental expert group to prepare draft terms of reference for the negotiation of a future legal instrument against corruption. It was his delegation's firm belief that with strong political will and a spirit of working together, a United Nations convention against corruption would materialize by the year 2003. Indonesia was fully committed to that end.

23. For some time, his Government had been making a strenuous effort to extract the cancer of corruption from Indonesian society. In a recent address to Parliament, the President had addressed past difficulties in eradicating such practices which had led to a crisis sweeping the nation since 1997. That was now coming to an end. At the President's request all Cabinet members and thousands of high-ranking officials were required to report their wealth to the State Officials Wealth Audit Commission.

24. Recent events had directed additional attention to the problem of terrorism. Indonesia stood firmly with the international community, through the United Nations, in fighting against terrorism and the senseless death and destruction wrought upon innocent people. His delegation welcomed the cooperation established between the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Centre for International Crime Prevention and research institutions and other actors in the prevention of terrorism. Its efforts would be given even greater impetus in its preparation of a global survey on terrorism. Close cooperation between that Branch and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism would be an important element in efforts to combat terrorism.

25. His delegation would continue to support the goals agreed on at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together. Indonesia was deeply concerned at the rise of drug abuse among young people, exacerbated by increased unemployment and the political and social insecurity that had permeated Indonesia in recent years. His Government would continue to support international efforts to combat multilateral criminal enterprises and eradicate illicit drugs. Indonesia continued to recognize the threat that those scourges represented for developing countries and the drain on resources that would be better spent

on social and economic development and the betterment of society.

26. **Mr. Tupy Caldas de Moura** (Brazil) said that, over the past year, the most significant of several positive developments in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice had been the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols, all of which had been signed by Brazil. The record number of signatures at the signing conference gave a strong signal of the international community's commitment. The United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention had collaborated closely with Brazil by providing technical cooperation, particularly for implementing academic programmes on criminal justice, and a regional branch of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention had been established in Brazil.

27. At the regional level, the illegal possession of and trafficking in firearms had been identified as a major factor in fomenting violence and criminality during a regional meeting in Brazil in December 2000. It had been decided to create a working group to study harmonization of legislation, regulation of trade in firearms and ammunition, and linkages between trafficking in drugs and in firearms and ammunition. At the national level, Brazil had used studies and documents from the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and from the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the elaboration and implementation of the national public-security plan adopted in July 2000, which had already produced good results.

28. In the area of international drug control, recent reports had highlighted achievements in reducing the drug supply resulting from measures that considered the global drug problem to be a shared responsibility. That had played a significant role in the success of national strategies to eliminate illicit drug crops. Aided by international cooperation, Brazil had implemented a consistent policy to combat illicit drug consumption and trafficking, and related crimes. In September 2000, it had hosted the first-ever summit of South American Presidents, at which drugs and related crimes had been a main theme; it had also taken part in various other relevant regional initiatives.

29. At the national level, the State's administrative structures were being modernized and legislation was being updated in order to enhance the capacity to deal with the drug problem in all its complexity, including money-laundering. In that respect, Brazil had joined the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, which had ranked Brazil one of the ten countries to fully implement its recommendations. However, synthetic drugs were playing a growing role in the overall drug problem and, unfortunately, there had been less progress in tackling illegal drug trafficking and abuse than in the area of drug supply. However, there were encouraging signs that progress was possible and that consensual strategies were correct.

30. **Ms. Molaroni** (San Marino) said there appeared to be a certain indifference towards the drug problem. That was unforgivable as it could hamper progress in resolving a problem that required action on all fronts, through collaboration among civil society, Governments and international organizations.

31. Following the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, San Marino had set about signing and ratifying all the international conventions on drugs. It was ready to support common actions that included supply and demand reduction, involvement of all social components, increased information at all levels, and international cooperation in the legal, customs and security fields.

32. San Marino was committed to combating money-laundering. The horrendous events of 11 September had provided evidence of the connection between organized crime, drug-trafficking and terrorism and gave added reason to adopt rigorous national control systems to prevent money-laundering.

33. Drug abuse endangered the development of the younger generation, fostering social exclusion and crime; consequently, San Marino was against any form of liberalizing drugs. Given that some of its youth were addicted, San Marino recognized the importance of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 54/132. San Marino felt that, in modern society it was also important to restore the role of the family as a point of reference.

34. National efforts to stop drug demand and trafficking were insufficient; it was necessary to deal with the problem of production, which was more

serious because it involved one of the world's greatest scourges: poverty. In several of the poorest countries, the only solution was to provide alternative means of improving the standard of living.

35. **Mr. Priputen** (Slovakia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union. Slovakia attached great importance to the activities of the United Nations in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. It had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which, together with its three protocols, would be of major importance in the fight against organized crime and should enter into force as soon as possible. A pilot seminar on fighting organized crime and corruption for Slovak participants had been held in Bratislava in September 2001 as a follow-up activity.

36. Slovakia fully supported all steps towards the elaboration of an effective and binding international legal instrument against corruption. However, it should ensure the equal commitment of all the parties and the monitoring mechanism must be effective, while retaining a certain degree of flexibility.

37. Globalization had greatly facilitated the growth of transnational organized crime, including trafficking in human beings, which had increased sharply in Europe over the last decade. His delegation welcomed the willingness of the Centre for International Crime Prevention to begin implementing an Eastern European anti-trafficking project in the Slovak Republic, with the principal objective of improving the response of criminal justice.

38. Universal cooperation should be supported by adequate measures at the regional level. The regional branch of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Bratislava, which operated with financial assistance from the Slovak Government, should contribute to the fight against organized crime and provide for an even stronger partnership between the Office and the countries of Central Europe.

39. **Mr. Millo** (Israel) said it was encouraging that UNDCP had made progress in reducing illicit drug production. However, it was of great concern that money generated by drug trafficking continued to move around the world so easily and with such devastating effects. Illicit drugs were a major challenge for individuals as well as States. Israel was committed to all the international conventions on drug abuse and illicit trafficking and its government institutions and non-governmental organizations were endeavouring to minimize the terrible effects of the problem.

40. Over the past year, Israel had developed new therapeutic models for drug addiction and had enacted a law against money-laundering. For almost a decade, it had been trying to foster regional cooperation with its neighbours, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians, to combat the drug problem more effectively; such cooperation should be supported by UNDCP. Plans existed to provide technical assistance to the Palestinians to combat drug-trafficking in the areas under their control; such measures could be implemented once the security situation improved. Israel had also been offering training in combating drug abuse to professionals from developing countries for several years. Lastly, the assistance of UNDCP was needed to help upgrade the operational capabilities of the Israeli Police to prevent illicit trafficking across the country's borders.

41. **Ms. Grollová** (Czech Republic) said that her delegation fully supported the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union. However, since the Czech Republic was currently chairing the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, she wished to add certain comments.

42. The documents adopted by the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had guided the work of the Commission. Within the follow-up process, the Commission had reviewed the first biennial report of the Executive Director of UNDCP on the progress achieved by Governments to meet the targets for the years 2003 and 2008, and had reviewed how the reporting process could be improved in order to increase clarity and compatibility in future monitoring.

43. The follow-up to the special session had represented a major substantive change in the work of the Commission. In order to fulfil its mandate, since March 2000 it had divided its agenda into an operational and a normative segment. In addition, for the first time, it had held a thematic debate with international experts, which had enabled it to move away from the national statements traditionally presented during the general debate towards a more dynamic, interactive discussion on specific issues.

44. During its forty-fourth session, the Commission had identified the following priorities to further strengthen the role of UNDCP as the central coordinator of international drug control efforts: curtailing drug demand, increasing support to Governments to counter the threat posed by synthetic drugs, and increasing attention to countering the drug problem in Africa, without neglecting other regions.

45. In view of international efforts to combat terrorism pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), it would be necessary to give greater attention to UNDCP activities relating to the strategy for Afghanistan. Assistance to countries combating drug trafficking in the Central Asian region should be increased immediately and the strategy adjusted to reflect new developments.

46. Another innovation under the Czech chairmanship of the Commission had been its inter-sessional meetings, giving members an opportunity to receive up-to-date information and exchange views on pertinent issues. Regular meetings had also been held between the bureau of the Commission and the Executive Director of UNDCP, and there had been mutually beneficial interaction between the Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board.

47. Voluntary contributions to the UNDCP Fund accounted for 93 per cent of all resources available to the United Nations for drug control, the rest being provided out of the regular budget. That was the single most important factor determining its work, since such contributions increasingly tended to be earmarked. Should that trend be reversed, UNDCP would have greater flexibility to react to the rapidly changing needs of countries in their struggle against drugs.

48. While fulfilling its mandate to provide policy directives to UNDCP, the Commission had taken new initiatives to broaden the dialogue on projects between donor and recipient countries. It had also paid increasing attention to UNDCP management, and the ongoing internal reforms within UNDCP would, it was hoped, restore the confidence of member nations.

49. **Mr. Andrabi** (Pakistan) said that drug trafficking and organized crime were interdependent and posed serious challenges to a country's national security and social stability. Globalization had given a new dimension to that linkage: drug cartels and organized criminal groups had taken advantage of the deregulation of capital and financial markets, "soft" borders, easier means of communication and advanced information technologies. The daunting task of countering their activities had acquired added importance in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks on the United States.

50. His delegation shared the concern of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention that the ban on poppy cultivation by the Taliban in Afghanistan would be difficult to sustain on account of the latest military strikes in that country and the consequent suspension of emergency humanitarian aid; it would like the Office to monitor the situation in Afghanistan and report to the Commission on Narcotics Drugs. His delegation agreed with the Executive Director's recommendations that the international community should increase support to Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other Central Asian countries which were vulnerable to the destabilizing effects of drug trafficking and drug abuse.

51. It was satisfying to learn from the Secretary-General's exhaustive reports that illicit cultivation of narcotics had been eradicated in several countries through alternative development, and that special emphasis was being placed on synergies between law enforcement policies, control measures and drug demand reduction. There should be no limitation on new mandates since they were necessary to address emerging challenges. With regard to the prevention of corrupt practices, the Secretary-General's suggestion that the United Nations system could assist Member States with the transfer and return of ill-gotten funds was encouraging, as was the possibility of assistance in capacity-building for case management.

52. Pakistan remained committed to the objectives identified at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. It had sustained its zero poppy-cultivation status for the second year running as a result of development intervention and firm enforcement action with active participation by community-based organizations. In order to consolidate its gains and counter the increase in opium-poppy prices due to zero production in Pakistan and the ban on cultivation in Afghanistan, several high-yield development projects were being planned in areas where poppy had been grown.

53. Stricter banking procedures were required to be adopted to counter money-laundering, which provided a lifeline to transnational organized crime. The National Accountability Bureau and the Prudential Regulations of the State Bank of Pakistan, however, had had success in detecting illegal wealth and money-laundering. All financial institutions were currently obliged to report all suspicious money transactions and an expert body was being created for their investigation.

54. Pakistan had always supported international cooperation against transnational crime. It was determined to make the country drug- and weapon-free once more and had taken vigorous steps to bring that about in the form of a de-weaponization campaign and anti-money-laundering action.

55. **Ms. Taracena** (Guatemala) said that her delegation supported the statements by Chile on behalf of the Rio Group and El Salvador on behalf of the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic with reference to their action to combat the drug problem in the southern hemisphere and subregionally. That problem was a matter of particular concern to her Government, not only in view of its direct consequences but also because of its links with violence, the economic power of criminal organizations, institutional and social corruption, and the activities of the international mafia and terrorism.

56. Guatemala had a number of high-level government bodies concerned with combating drug addiction and trafficking, and they maintained close contact with the International Narcotics Control Board and the UNDCP. The Narcotics Bureau of the Public Prosecutor's Office was active in the implementation of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and was responsible for obtaining regional and international cooperation. A Guatemalan drug-monitoring centre had also been set up to provide information, sponsored by the Government of Spain and the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control of the Organization of American States (OAS).

57. Guatemala was also engaged in demand-reduction activities, focusing on preventive education and community self-management to increase awareness of drug addiction and its consequences. The Government was collaborating with the non-governmental sector in the implementation of the National Master Plan, while a bill on money-laundering had been brought before Congress and would contribute significantly to combating drug trafficking.

58. At the regional level, bilateral agreements had been signed by Guatemala and Mexico to improve border controls, and support was being given to all the anti-drug efforts of the OAS through the appropriate mechanisms. Intelligence information and logistical support were being provided through Guatemala's Ministry of Defence to intelligence centres in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. In 2000, Guatemala had chaired the Permanent Central American Commission for the Eradication of the Production, Traffic, Consumption and Illicit Use of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Several of the Commission's bodies had been reactivated and a regional action plan drafted for the reduction of supply and demand.

59. At the multilateral level, her delegation considered that the Third Committee was the ideal forum for reiterating its support for strengthening the mechanisms and procedures adopted by the United Nations for crime prevention and drug control.

60. **Mr. Alcalay** (Venezuela) endorsed the statements made by the delegation of Chile on behalf of the States members of the Rio Group and by the delegation of Bolivia on behalf of the States members of the Andean Community.

61. His Government categorically condemned illicit drug cultivation and consumption, an interdependent sequence of activities in which the countervalues of society were cynically exploited for easy gain. A multidimensional, dynamic and transnational approach was needed to combat that form of corruption on a long-term basis, both at home and abroad.

62. At the national level, the Government had supported far-reaching changes, based on the new Constitution, beginning with transparency in the financing of the political parties and the monitoring of the income and assets of political authorities in order to prevent and combat corruption. In its concern to prevent that corruption from reaching the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, it was also promoting public-sector reforms to improve accountability, eliminate red tape and reorganize the system in order to achieve greater transparency in government decision-making.

63. At the international level, his Government supported international cooperation, particularly with the United Nations, in setting up efficient monitoring systems to prevent corruption and introducing sanctions to eradicate corrupt practices. It favoured the elaboration within the United Nations of an international instrument to combat corruption and systematize the relevant provisions of various existing legal instruments, given its experience in negotiations on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

64. With reference to the criminal misuse of information technology, his Government favoured a multilateral approach to improving security through collective action to permit cooperation in identifying and prosecuting persons committing criminal acts in cyberspace. General Assembly resolution 55/63 on that issue was a first step towards adopting global initiatives which could lead to an international legal instrument. The Venezuelan National Assembly had been working on an act to combat information-technology crimes, covering the protection of State security, the rights of citizens and the privacy of communications. It contained sanctions for a series of such offences and would be adopted in the very near future.

65. The Venezuelan National Assembly was in the process of debating, with a view to its ratification, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime signed by Venezuela in December 2000. That instrument was of fundamental importance in that Venezuela's geographical location facilitated the drug trafficking, money-laundering and abduction activities of the international criminal organizations but also facilitated action against those groups for the same geographical reasons.

66. Where drugs were concerned, Venezuela had focused its national strategy not only on the control, prohibition and suppression of drug trafficking, but also on prevention, rehabilitation and social reintegration, the investigation and control of funds, and the control of chemical precursors. More recently, attention had focused on prevention and education and on drug-abuse trends among children and young people — especially street children, whose situation left them particularly exposed. Drug abuse was occurring at an increasingly early age; preventive policies must therefore be accompanied by the mobilization of the community, solidarity in action, collaboration with parents and teachers, and the participation of institutions which could communicate appropriately with the sectors affected. Internationally, the problem must be tackled on the basis of equality, reciprocity, shared responsibility and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, but bearing in mind the gravity of drug abuse for mankind as a whole. Venezuela further considered that the complex question of the movement of illegal drug crops should receive more cooperation from the international community so that it could be controlled through joint efforts.

67. Venezuela considered that the principle of shared responsibility should include action against drug trafficking. States affected should receive support and cooperation from the international community so that a balanced approach would enable joint action to be taken to prevent drug trafficking from generating the crimes often associated with it. That would lead to the creation of a new international ethos of which the fight against drugs would be a cornerstone.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

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Third Committee

Summary record of the 11th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 16 October 2001, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Al-Hinai ..... (Oman)

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Agenda item 110: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)*

Agenda item 111: International drug control (*continued*)*

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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01-58250 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 27: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.3/56/L.11)

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.11 entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly"

1. **Ms. Leyton** (Chile) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.11 on behalf of the sponsors listed and Algeria, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guyana, Israel, Morocco, New Zealand, Slovenia, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Tunisia.

2. **The Chairman** announced that Angola, Azerbaijan, Burundi, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Senegal and the Sudan also wished to sponsor the draft resolution.

Agenda item 108: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/C.3/56/L.2, L.7, L.8, L.9 and L.10)

Draft resolutions A/C.3/56/L.2 and L.7 entitled "Preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family"

3. **Ms. Elisha** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.2 and the amendments to it contained in document A/C.3/56/L.7. She announced that Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, the Niger, the Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.8 entitled "Cooperatives in social development"

4. **Ms. Enkhsetseg** (Mongolia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that cooperatives played an important role in social development, and that there remained a need to create a supportive environment for cooperatives. A revised text of the draft resolution would be submitted based on the results of informal consultations. The Dominican Republic, Morocco and the Philippines had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.9 entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century"

5. **Ms. Garcia** (the Philippines), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that in paragraph 3, the words "for maintaining" should be replaced by "to monitor". Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Italy, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Monaco, Morocco, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the Republic of Korea and Uganda had joined the sponsors.

6. **The Chairman** said that Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, the Dominican Republic and Suriname also wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.10 entitled "A United Nations literacy decade: education for all"

7. **Ms. Enkhsetseg** (Mongolia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that Bangladesh, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Israel, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Senegal and Suriname had joined the sponsors.

8. **The Chairman** announced that Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania had also joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 109: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/C.3/56/L.6)

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.6 entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing"

9. **Mr. Alaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that ageing was closely linked to development. The follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons must be action-oriented, and the long-term strategy should include realistic recommendations for the financing of its implementation. He urged the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

Agenda item 110: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/56/3, 83, 151, 155, 222, 380, A/56/402-E/2001/105 and A/56/403)

Agenda item 111: International drug control (*continued*) (A/56/3, 83, 157, 222 and 468)

10. **Mr. Hla Myint** (Myanmar) said that, although Myanmar was a developing country with its own share of economic problems, it was firmly committed to the elimination of illicit drugs. From September 1988 to April 2001 law-enforcement agencies had seized vast quantities of drugs, including opium and heroin, and precursor chemicals. The destruction of those substances had been witnessed by officials from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the international community. However, these efforts had not been appreciated as fully as they should have been.

11. Myanmar was unfortunate in that its geographic conditions and many decades of armed insurgency in border areas had made those areas conducive to the growing of illicit crops. He would refrain from reminding the Committee of how opium had been introduced to his country and who had initiated its refining into heroin; instead, he would explain the sincere efforts being made despite the lack of resources. Areas under illicit crops had many factors in common, such as isolation, lack of peace and stability, underdevelopment and poverty. For decades, peace had eluded those parts of Myanmar located within the infamous "Golden Triangle". The hill tribes in those areas had depended on opium-poppy cultivation to sustain themselves. In the past, physical destruction of poppy fields had been the focus of the national drug-suppression plan, and while that approach might seem very appealing, it was not a sustainable method unless alternative sources of income were offered. Myanmar was implementing a new approach; in 1989, ceasefire agreements had been reached with the insurgent groups. Although the country's budget was severely strained, considerable sums had been spent on development programmes exclusively for the border areas.

12. It was not possible to transform the situation instantly in what had for many decades been a no-man's-land. However, the Government had striven together with the leaders of the national races to improve socio-economic conditions in the border areas, through education and creating awareness of the dangers of narcotic drugs, and by developing alternative sources of income. Its efforts had not been in vain: for example, the Mongla Region in eastern Myanmar, where production of opium had formerly been prolific, had been opium-free since 1997 and leaders in other regions had committed themselves to achieving the same goal in the near future. His Government was grateful to China, Japan and Thailand, for their assistance in the cultivation of substitute crops.

13. The Government had succeeded in greatly reducing opium cultivation. Whether or not its efforts were recognized, his Government was determined to carry on the fight with whatever resources it had. The destruction caused by narcotics knew no border, race or creed; no one was immune to the threat they posed, and Myanmar was no exception; it was not a culprit but a victim. His Government was encouraged that UNDCP was currently assisting it in developing alternatives to opium-poppy cultivation. Myanmar had further strengthened cooperation with neighbouring countries in the fight against narcotic drugs, and was in the second year of its 15-year plan for their total elimination. That plan would target 51 drug-cultivating and -producing townships, covering a broad spectrum of supply and demand elimination, law enforcement, community participation and international cooperation activities, and the estimated budget for the plan was $150 million.

14. The national authorities continued to pursue all means to tighten control measures for precursor chemicals in cooperation with other countries of East Asia and other regions, and was grateful to the

authorities in a number of countries which had provided training to field offices in Myanmar, enabling them to identify precursor chemicals. His Government was encouraged by the Secretary-General's recognition of its efforts in poppy eradication, and a recent report by the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention stating that poppy cultivation in Myanmar during the past decade had been cut by 40 per cent. Such progress had been achieved not by words or financial resources alone, but by sweat and blood. He reaffirmed Myanmar's total commitment to fighting illicit drugs. The goal of eradication would be achieved more quickly if international assistance was received; he therefore appealed to the international community to help the world fight drugs by helping Myanmar.

15. **Mr. Navaratnarajah** (Sri Lanka) said that the items under discussion were very important to both developing and developed countries. Globalization contributed to the increasingly transnational nature of crime- and drug-related problems, and the past decade had exacerbated transnational crime, which had acquired a new dynamism. The activities of terrorist groups and criminal organizations in any country posed serious threats to other countries and a formidable challenge to the international community; they endangered democratic processes and institutions, the rule of law, economic development and international peace and security. Cooperation among those groups and organizations had reached levels of sophistication which could be countered only through concerted international action; such action was needed to interdict the means of financing of criminal groups and terrorist organizations, which derived massive funds from such activities as trafficking in persons, money-laundering and the smuggling of drugs and weapons.

16. A significant recent event in the fight against transnational crime had been the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, annexed to General Assembly resolutions 55/25 and 55/255 respectively. Sri Lanka had become a party to the Convention and to the first two protocols, and hoped that those instruments would provide the foundation for decisive measures against the various forms of transnational crime. International action was also urgently needed to curb the acquisition of arms and ammunition by terrorist and criminal organizations. The recent adoption of the third protocol, on the regulation of firearms, provided a very important legal framework to that end. The Programme of Action adopted at the recent United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects provided a good foundation for international cooperation, but his Government would have preferred a more ambitious programme.

17. It was a matter of concern to his delegation that, as described in paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's report (A/56/155), there was a danger that lack of resources might adversely affect the future work of the expert group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/127 to prepare a study on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives and their use for criminal purposes. The expert group should be provided with the necessary resources to conduct its work effectively.

18. As for the issue of international drug control, he expressed appreciation to the relevant United Nations agencies for their continuing close collaboration with Sri Lanka on measures to reduce demand for and supply of illicit drugs. Despite resource constraints, his Government was implementing the various United Nations instruments in that field through both legislative and policy measures. Significant progress had been achieved in the formulation of a legislative framework to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug-related crime.

19. **Mr. Amorós Núñez** (Cuba) said that, while globalization was increasing the degree of interdependence among peoples, it was also widening the gap between the richest countries and the developing economies, and offering unprecedented opportunities to criminals throughout the world. Thanks to globalization, the world's most powerful mafia organizations were gaining an estimated $1,500 billion per year — taking advantage of developments in trade, transport and information technology and of the liberalization of financial transactions — and were reaping huge profits from trafficking in drugs and in persons, particularly women and girls, and from money-laundering.

20. Those problems could be dealt with only through cooperation, and United Nations forums on crime prevention and criminal justice offered the best framework for such cooperation. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols represented a milestone in that area. His Government strongly supported the work of the

Expert Group which was working towards the adoption of an international legal instrument against corruption, which was considered a particularly heinous offence in Cuba and was being fought by all available legislative means.

21. Respect for international law and for the domestic legislation of all States was central to international cooperation in crime prevention. Each country's domestic legislation must ensure that crime, whether or not it had international repercussions, was dealt with appropriately within that country; however, at a time when major international efforts were in hand to punish international criminals involved in the smuggling of migrants, a law which had been in force in the United States of America for 35 years still encouraged potential illegal migrants from Cuba and the actions of criminals from the United States who were involved in trafficking in persons. Many Cubans seeking authorization to enter the United States legally were turned away, and yet migrants were welcomed when they sought to enter that country through illicit and often mortally dangerous means. The United States Government applied that policy only to Cuban citizens. Owing to the lack of strong measures in the United States, those who smuggled migrants could carry on that trafficking with impunity. More than 70 such criminals were in prison in Cuba, but in the United States only two or three had been punished and the sanctions against them had been derisory.

22. Certain States had failed to show the political will to cooperate with others in fighting crime, including serious offences such as trafficking in drugs and in persons, despite the fact that those phenomena were generated, and in some cases encouraged, within the territory of those States. Furthermore, the international community was currently witnessing a rapid upsurge in unilateral actions supposedly intended to combat international crime. Yet such policies made it more difficult to deal with such a complex problem. The only viable option was to intensify international cooperation in that field as a matter of urgency.

23. **Ms. Neskorozhana** (Ukraine) said that her country was deeply concerned by the increasing threat that organized crime and the illicit drug problem posed to the secure, peaceful and healthy development of nations. Such problems could be addressed only through international cooperation as well as improved coordination of national and international efforts.

24. Ukraine had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and would be signing the three protocols shortly. Those instruments marked a step forward in the international fight against organized crime, particularly by reinforcing judicial cooperation. The recent adoption by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the Plans of Action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice provided guidance to Member States and the Secretariat for meeting the commitments made by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held in Vienna in April 2000 and for implementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

25. Ukraine had repeatedly condemned all forms of international terrorism and it was of particular concern that terrorist organizations were financed by other criminal activities. Enhancing the potential of the United Nations to fight international terrorism should go beyond merely strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention. Technological progress had introduced new threats to the security and well-being of humanity. Computer terrorism and computer-related crimes were obvious examples of such threats and should be reflected in future legal instruments.

26. Another concern was the close links between transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, since it was no secret that the illegal arms trade and people trafficking were financed with the proceeds of the illegal drug trade. Governments had the principal responsibility for implementing the measures adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on countering the world drug problem. At the same time, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) should continue to play a catalytic role in the fight against new trends in drug abuse, in raising international awareness and in consolidating the political commitment of the international community.

27. Illustrating its commitment to meeting international standards, Ukraine had recently adopted a new criminal code, which criminalized drug production, use and trafficking and related activities as well as the creation of organized crime groups or the abetting of such groups. It was to be hoped that the activities of UNDCP and the Centre for International

Crime Prevention would take into account the specific problems of countries with transition economies.

28. **Mr. Mwakawago** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement by the representative of Zambia on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The events of 11 September 2001 had demonstrated that transnational organized crime, to which terrorism was closely linked, was a global concern and required global action. Consequently, the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols was a significant step in international cooperation against organized crime, and it was encouraging to know that the Centre for International Crime Prevention was already providing technical assistance to some countries.

29. His Government was fully committed to the fight against crime and illicit drugs, and had enacted legislation imposing harsher penalties on those convicted of drug trafficking in order to harmonize its legislation with its obligations under the international instruments it had ratified. State programmes for drug rehabilitation and for raising awareness of drug abuse had also been established. Alone, the country lacked the resources and capacity to achieve the desired results; hence it was important that its development partners increased their assistance.

30. In cooperation with its SADC partners, his Government had adopted programmes for exchanging information to combat money-laundering, and plans were under way to set up the headquarters of the SADC money-laundering unit in Dar es Salaam. Joint training programmes for law-enforcement officers had also been established and laws were being harmonized to facilitate prosecution. Furthermore, members of SADC had recently signed a protocol on firearms and ammunition; in that respect, the support of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the European Union and other bilateral donors was greatly appreciated.

31. The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) had played an important role in enhancing regional cooperation in response to the challenges posed by organized crime. Provided it was given the required support and resources, it had the potential to play a vital role.

32. The United Republic of Tanzania had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, but — like other developing countries — needed increased assistance in order to implement it. The Convention provided a tool against organized crime; global cooperation was required in order to use it.

33. **Ms. Otiti** (Uganda) said that the tragic events of 11 September 2001 had exposed the world to crime in a dimension that curtailed the fundamental human rights to freedom and life. Uganda was committed to working with the international community to end terrorism and crime. It was encouraging that terrorism was a priority on the United Nations agenda and that the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was taking steps to prevent crime more effectively. Regional and national institutions, such as UNAFRI, should also be provided with adequate resources to ensure that they are able to collaborate with international institutions.

34. Despite its current financial situation, UNAFRI had been able to conduct a regional survey on illicit trafficking in firearms and taken part in several regional and international meetings on crime prevention. Increased cooperation with other institutes, such as the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the future UNAFRI firearms centre, should help monitor the region. The true potential of the Institute could be realized only if it received adequate funding. While grateful for the bilateral assistance received, her delegation hoped that, through the United Nations, further multilateral resources would be forthcoming.

35. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols would strengthen the global effort against crime. Although developing countries still faced constraints, owing to poverty and disease, the increased drive to fight terrorism would help strengthen national institutions for crime prevention, law enforcement and criminal-justice administration. It would be recalled that Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania had been affected by terrorist attacks in recent years and Uganda had also been a target, although the attack had been prevented, owing to improved legislative measures. The three countries were working together to establish a programme against terrorism that met international standards.

36. **Mr. O'Brien** (Australia), also speaking on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that, despite global efforts, drug abuse continued to inflict massive suffering throughout the world. While domestic policies would always be important in dealing with the impact of drug abuse, the drug threat was global, and effective action to control the drug trade had to be underpinned by concerted international cooperation.

37. International efforts to implement the objectives of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had achieved significant success in some areas, most notably crop eradication and substitution. However, new technologies had given impetus to the development of new substances and to the exploitation of new markets and new operating methods by transnational criminal groups. In many countries the use of amphetamine-type substances, particularly by young people, presented a challenge to the health, social and law-enforcement sectors and served as a reminder that the drug threat was dynamic.

38. The global narcotics trade exploited social, economic and political vulnerabilities. To be fully effective, international responses had to encompass equally diverse objectives, including more robust State institutions, economic development, education and training, and health and rehabilitation programmes. Collaborative partnerships that maximized the strengths of each partner were essential at every level of international cooperation against drugs. Drug-control programmes needed to be fully complementary so as to minimize waste of scarce resources. The global fight against drugs also had to take into account the complexity of the issues underlying drug abuse and the flexibility of transnational crime groups, which frequently combined their drug operations with other forms of organized crime.

39. The overriding objective of transnational organized crime was the generation of profits. It was therefore important to improve cooperation so as to deny transnational criminal access to the proceeds of crime. The UNDCP Global Programme against Money Laundering was making a valuable contribution and Member States were urged to collaborate with international institutions such as the Financial Action Task Force.

40. Australia believed that widespread ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime would lead to a significant harmonization of the international legal framework applying to organized crime, which would facilitate more effective international cooperation in the prosecution of members of transnational organized crime groups.

41. As the only agency with a global mandate to combat the drug trade, UNDCP was central to collective efforts in that field. Australia, Canada and New Zealand welcomed its achievements and remained committed to working with it. At its forty-fourth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had adopted a resolution calling on UNDCP to continue efforts to improve both its management and the coordination of multilateral drug-control initiatives. Full implementation of the recommendations in the report on the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/56/83) was essential to ensuring that UNDCP was managed in an open, transparent and effective manner.

42. In view of the relentless and global nature of the drug threat it was imperative that efforts increased their momentum. Australia, Canada and New Zealand remained committed to those efforts and urged all Member States to strengthen their partnerships with each other and with UNDCP and other relevant multilateral agencies.

43. **Ms. Jarbussynova** (Kazakhstan), speaking also on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, said that despite concerted efforts to combat the drug problem, international security continued to be threatened, as did the health, lives and dignity of millions of people. The link between drugs and terrorism, money-laundering, smuggling, and transnational organized crime was a particular cause for concern, as was increasing drug abuse among young people. In order to combat the problem, coordinated international action was required, involving a strengthened role for the United Nations. The Secretary-General's efforts in that connection were much appreciated.

44. As part of their joint efforts to combat illicit trafficking, countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had strengthened their cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, including in legislative matters, and were ensuring follow-up at national level. Armed with the capacity to

analyse the development of the drug situation throughout the region, those countries were now able to engage in joint planning.

45. The situation in Afghanistan was of particular concern, especially since Central Asian countries had become a transit area for drugs trafficked from South-West Asia to markets in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Western Europe, inter alia. In 2000 alone, the Tadjik and Russian authorities had together seized 3.8 tons of drugs. Trafficking in heroin, in particular, had more than doubled over the past two years. The countries on whose behalf he spoke wished to reaffirm their strong commitment towards full cooperation with the United Nations and international community in the fight against drugs.

46. **Mr. Madej** (Poland) said that priority should be given to combating international organized crime and corruption, which were frequently interrelated. An effective response required the enactment and implementation of comprehensive and multidimensional national legislation.

47. Economic factors played a crucial role in combating organized crime and corruption; therefore, efforts should be concentrated not only on prosecuting and punishing offenders, but also on eliminating the illegal profits generated by crime. In that respect, Poland had recently introduced changes to its legislation to strengthen the relevant national authorities and give them new faculties. It had also amended the Criminal Code to enable courts to order the confiscation of property if, even indirectly, it had been obtained from criminal activities.

48. Strong international cooperation at all levels was necessary to combat transnational organized crime. International organizations had an essential role to play, particularly the United Nations, within which the international legal instruments that formed the basis for international cooperation, such as the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, were drafted and adopted. Poland was in the process of ratifying the Convention; however, its legislation already reflected to a great extent the standards established therein. Another extremely important task for the United Nations was the preparation of an international legal instrument against corruption, and Poland strongly supported that initiative. In recent years, it had taken part in many activities related to the preparation of legal instruments on corruption in the context of the European Community and had acceded to the relevant conventions.

49. **Mr. Zainuddin** (Malaysia) said that globalization had given rise to a plethora of transnational crimes. International economic crimes were also on the increase owing to advances in new information technologies. His Government welcomed the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, which testified to international resolve to fight the global menace of drugs. The negotiations under way on an international legal instrument against corruption were also most welcome. Cognizant of the fact that corruption undermined the values of democracy and jeopardized social, economic and political development, his Government had established an independent mechanism to investigate allegations of corruption. Firm action was also being taken to bring to justice those engaged in corruption, whatever their standing in society.

50. The events of 11 September had underscored the urgency of combating terrorism — possibly the most complex security challenge facing the international communit. Measures levied against terrorism must, however, be consistent with universally recognized principles governing international relations, and with international law. The horrific acts of 11 September had far-reaching consequences, including in the area of international drug control. It was a matter of concern that the success that had been achieved in stemming poppy cultivation in Afghanistan was now in danger of being reversed. Moreover, the humanitarian crisis following air strikes by the United States on Afghanistan, and the lack of aid to former poppy owners, made it difficult to sustain the ban. Seriously concerned at civilian casualties in the ongoing military offensive, his delegation called for the targeting of sites near populated areas to cease. In view of the enormity of the developing refugee problem, humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan should be immediately resumed.

51. As evidence of its strong commitment to United Nations drug-control efforts and to collective action at all levels, his Government had taken every measure to ensure compliance with relevant international instruments. Its national drug policy aimed to eliminate the demand for and supply of illicit drugs with a view to creating a drug-free generation by 2023. Steps had also been taken to criminalize and combat money-

laundering, including through the establishment of the relevant intergovernmental machinery.

52. **Mr. Jalang'o** (Kenya) said that the events of September 11 had galvanized international efforts to tackle the problem of terrorism; his own Government fully supported measures based on relevant United Nations resolutions, and would continue to support all international efforts to eradicate terrorism.

53. Kenya had become a major transit country for drugs, with conflicts in neighbouring countries only making security and customs measures more inadequate. In an effort to curb the illicit import of small arms and light weapons — a phenomenon that went hand in hand with the drug trade — the Government had closed one of its borders in August. It was also taking action to address the acute poverty and increased unemployment that had made the youth of Kenya so susceptible to drugs. As part of its commitment to fighting crime and drugs, the Government had also established additional police, customs, legislative and institutional machinery. It also collaborated with international security agencies, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), and with the United Nations and various bilateral partners.

54. The statements by UNDCP had failed to emphasize the magnitude of Africa's drug-trafficking problem, given their focus on Asia and Europe. His delegation thus welcomed the European Union's appeal to UNDCP to provide optimum support for sustainable anti-drug programmes in Africa. It also called upon the goodwill of the donor community and the United Nations system to help UNDCP mobilize the resources it needed to perform its mandate more effectively.

55. **Mr. Alhaji Bello Lafiaji** (Nigeria) said that the attacks of 11 September demonstrated how international criminals and terrorists could take advantage of technology and the free flow of information to destroy lives and property. His delegation welcomed the efforts made towards elaboration of a convention against corruption in the hope that the instrument would facilitate the tracing of transfers of illicit funds. Given that corruption constituted a well-known impediment to socio-economic development, his Government was intent on tackling the problem at the national level and had instituted legislative and other measures to that end.

56. The magnitude of the threat of international organized crime was further exacerbated by drug production and trafficking, which constituted a harbinger of most violent crimes and other criminal activities. As part of its commitment to the fight against drugs, the Government had implemented effective preventive and enforcement measures, which had led to a substantial increase in the number of drug seizures, arrests and prosecutions in the past year alone. Plans were also under way to strengthen subregional cooperation with a view to institutionalizing the exchange of intelligence and to strengthening joint cross-border operations.

57. In view of the acute need to improve training for drug-law enforcement and prevention in Africa, regional training facilities were being strengthened. At the national level also, the Government was addressing drug-demand reduction through comprehensive campaigns that included the incorporation of drug-abuse education in school curricula.

58. Lastly, his delegation wished to stress the importance of conducting research into new local substitutes for hard drugs, such as the wild zakami plant found in northern Nigeria.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

United Nations

A/C.3/56/SR.12

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Summary record of the 12th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Al-Hinai ..... (Oman)

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Agenda item 110: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)

Agenda item 111: International drug control (*continued*)

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01-58460 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 110: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/56/3*, A/56/83, A/56/151*, A/56/155, A/56/222, A/56/380, A/56/402-E/2001/105 and A/56/403)

Agenda item 111: International drug control (*continued*) (A/56/3*, A/56/83, A/56/157, A/56/222 and A/56/468*)

1. **Mr. Gopinathan** (India) said that acts of terrorism, whether indiscriminate or directed against certain groups, were crimes unlike any other, because the perpetrators challenged the fundamental values of civilization. They were not seeking profit, but to undermine Governments and destroy national political, social and economic structures. As the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, had said, acts of terrorism, such as those carried out at the World Trade Centre, violated the most fundamental human right, the right to life. Terrorism had many consequences, because the World Bank had forecast that the attack of 11 September would lead to a rise in poverty that would claim tens of thousand of lives in the developing world.

2. That was why it was so inadequate that the United Nations Secretariat saw the fight against terrorism only as a subset of its work on crime prevention. There were, of course, obvious synergies between international terrorism and transnational organized crime networks that were involved, in particular, in trafficking in drugs and arms, diamonds and other precious commodities, and in persons, in particular women and children, and also in money-laundering. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had an important role to play in coordinating the action of the international community in support of the measures taken by countries to investigate acts of terrorism which were crimes under both domestic and international law, and to bring the perpetrators to justice as rapidly as possible.

3. For that reason, at the tenth session of the Commission, held in Vienna in May, his delegation had been distressed by the reluctance of many countries to adopt the proposed draft plans of action, particularly on terrorism, because, at the time, they considered themselves to be immune from the problem. The diluted versions of those plans which had been adopted at the resumed session of the Commission in September, left much to be desired. It was to be hoped that countries would now be prepared to adopt a more forceful plan of action and to provide it with adequate resources. Indeed, the perception of the threat of terrorism had changed. In its resolution 1269 (1999), its first resolution on terrorism, the Security Council had implied that only some acts of terrorism were threats, namely those that threatened international peace and security; while in its resolution 1373 (2001), adopted in September 2001, it had affirmed that all acts of terrorism threatened international peace and security. As such, they should be combated by the United Nations system. To that end, it was necessary to increase the resources and reinforce the staff of the United Nations Terrorism Prevention Branch in Vienna, which were absurdly insufficient when it was considered that the two special tribunals established after the conflicts in the Balkans and Rwanda, which had also threatened international peace and security, would cost Member States about $400 million in 2001, or about one sixth of the regular budget of the United Nations.

4. In the area of the fight against drugs, results had not lived up to the expectations of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), yet it had reduced its presence in South Asia, a region which was particularly at risk for drug trafficking. Indeed, far from being the result of the Taliban's concern to comply with the wishes of the international community, the decline in the poppy harvest was related to the drought and to the glut of opium on the market, which the Taliban intended to turn to their advantage by releasing on the market the stocks in their possession, estimated at the average annual production of Afghanistan, once the price of heroin had increased.

5. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on capacity-building and technical cooperation for the implementation of the Convention, and the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century (A/RES/55/59). His delegation was also pleased that, at is fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly had requested that an

* To be issued.

intergovernmental open-ended expert group should prepare draft terms of reference for the negotiation of an international legal instrument against corruption, which, it was to be hoped, would lead to greater transparency in money transfers and to the repatriation of such funds to the countries of origin.

6. **Mr. Vixay** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on agenda item 111, said that his country was aware that drug abuse and trafficking were a threat to all States and all peoples. His Government had therefore convened a national conference on drug control and was working actively to eliminate opium poppy cultivation by 2006. It was hoped that increased incomes from alternative activities, which his Government was seeking to promote rapidly in the major opium-producing districts, as well as improved market access for the products of those activities and community-based drug-demand reduction would lead to reduced drug dependency. It was also necessary to improve public awareness of the illicit nature of opium cultivation, particularly through law-enforcement measures. A decree on the elimination of opium poppy cultivation and the prohibition of drug trafficking had been promulgated, and a five-year education programme had been adopted in order to prevent drug abuse and trafficking in schools. Increased penalties for drug traffickers and those who committed drug-related crimes were being planned. Thanks to those measures, the areas under opium poppy cultivation had been reduced by 30 per cent since 1998, mostly in areas benefiting from alternative-development projects.

7. Owing to its geographical location, the Lao People's Democratic Republic was used as a country of transit for those trafficking in drugs and precursors. It had therefore strengthened its cooperation with the countries of the region in order to improve the control of drugs and chemical precursors across shared borders, by means of bilateral agreements and a regional memorandum of understanding concluded in 1993. The country was also updating its current legislation in order to become a party to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Taking account of its particular drug-related responsibilities as a member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), it was committed to working together with the other States members of that body and with China to free the region of the scourge of drugs and particularly of amphetamine-type stimulants.

8. **Mr.** Talal **Al-Mutairi** (Kuwait), speaking on agenda item 111, said that the worldwide drug problem threatened the very existence of human communities and therefore required international mobilization. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together" (A/56/157), which described worldwide efforts to reduce demand but also to help producer countries to eliminate the cultivation of illicit drug crops, particularly by proposing alternative activities.

9. Kuwait had long been struggling against the drug problem and its position had evolved over the years. A law promulgated in 1960 had provided for the imprisonment of drug addicts and those who promoted drug addiction. Almost 30 years later, in 1987, another law had come into force, penalizing the drug trade but considering that drug addiction was an illness and emphasizing the rehabilitation of addicts.

10. In 1989 Kuwait had signed the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and had enacted a third law setting up a national anti-drug committee. The latter had set up programmes for the prevention and treatment of drug addiction, focused not only on the health aspects but also on the social and educational dimensions of that scourge. Recently, a broad campaign to promote awareness and mobilize public opinion had been launched with the cooperation of personalities from the literary, artistic and sporting communities.

11. **Mr. Fadaifard** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly emphasized the importance of a coordinated and balanced approach to reduce drug abuse, eliminate illicit supply and counter drug trafficking. That Declaration reflected the determination of the international community in the face of the drug scourge. His delegation also welcomed the new United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which complemented the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

12. It was a matter of deep concern to his delegation that, following two decades of war, the population of Afghanistan had fallen prey to organized crime and had

no alternative to drug-crop cultivation in order to survive. The falling price of opium in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the powerlessness of the Taliban to deal with poppy cultivation, the extreme poverty of farmers and the evacuation of the United Nations from Afghanistan had led to a new wave of cultivation of and trafficking in illicit drugs over the past month. It was therefore important to set up a responsible, broad-based and durable Government in Afghanistan, with the necessary financial resources to restore stability to an economy which was excessively dependent on organized crime.

13. For 20 years, his Government, too, had been involved in a costly war against the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs. The drug problem had brought into being a vast transnational network in the region which also trafficked in arms and persons and supported terrorist activities. That situation was a source of insecurity in the country's eastern provinces, particularly in Khorassan, where there were many cases of hostage-taking.

14. The Islamic Republic of Iran was currently home to 2.5 million Afghan refugees, some of whom were involved in drug trafficking. In 2001, in addition to the allocation of $200 million to tackle the drug problem throughout the country, it had been necessary to allocate $30 million to strengthen border controls, for which 30,000 police officers had already been mobilized.

15. His Government attached great importance to cooperation with international and regional agencies, and had signed memorandums of understanding with a number of countries for the creation of joint committees, the exchange of information and the holding of training courses for law-enforcement officers in the area of drugs. His Government welcomed the conclusion within the framework of the "6 + 2 Group" of a regional action plan as a means of tackling the drugs problem associated with Afghanistan. By adopting the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the international community had shown its determination; it should now also demonstrate the ability to innovate by adopting an approach which would share rights and responsibilities equitably among individuals, local communities, Governments and the international community.

16. The struggle against the worldwide problem of drugs should be accompanied by measures to deter corruption, which was taking on increasingly alarming proportions as a result of globalization, which facilitated the illegal transfer of funds and was particularly damaging to the developing countries, its first victims. In the light of the inseparable linkages between corruption, money-laundering, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, it would be logical that the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime should be followed by an attack upon corruption in the form of negotiations for the adoption of a convention which would serve as an instrument and framework for the international struggle against corruption.

17. **Mr. Emmanuel** (Haiti) said that his delegation supported the statement made by Jamaica on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

18. Owing to its geographical location and its precarious economic and social situation, Haiti was vulnerable in the face of drug trafficking, money-laundering and related crimes, which obstructed its economic development. His Government had therefore concluded with the United States of America an agreement to combat drug trafficking by sea and had enacted laws providing for the extradition of offenders and seizure of their assets. Haiti had also set up a financial-intelligence unit with responsibility for examining suspect bank accounts, and a national anti-drug commission. A draft law had been introduced relating to the suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, and Haiti had ratified the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. The police and judicial authorities were also fully involved in the struggle, and the number of seizures had multiplied.

19. Aware that it alone could not overcome the drug scourge owing to the international dimensions of the problem, his Government was cooperating with the countries of the region in anti-drug operations. With help from the European Union, the country's criminal-investigation service would soon be connected with the competent authorities of other countries via a computer network and would then be able to exercise more effective maritime surveillance. However, since the problems of poverty and drug trafficking were closely linked, Haiti required external financial assistance and was relying on bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

20. His Government strongly condemned all forms of terrorism. Haiti was committed to cooperating with the international community for the total eradication of terrorism, which was a threat to international peace and security and to individual rights and freedoms, and was itself combating terrorism and impunity at the domestic level. Having in the past received aid from the United States, in that regard, his Government hoped to continue receiving help from the international community concerning the return to Haiti of terrorists who had been convicted in absentia. In order to combat crime, it was also endeavouring to construct an effective and stable system of justice; to that end, it had reactivated the *École de la magistrature* (Judicial Training College) and appointed a new minister for public security.

21. Lastly, at the international level, his delegation welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its signature by States.

22. **Mr. Dahane** (Morocco) said that, more than ever, crime and drugs represented a real threat to the entire world and were hindering the development of societies. The international community must therefore develop a common strategy to combat those problems by equipping itself with juridical instruments and cooperation mechanisms as complex as the criminal networks which were taking advantage of scientific and technical advances and exploiting loopholes in the international financial system. In that context, Morocco had in December 2000 participated in the drafting of and had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It was therefore incumbent on the international community to increase its technical and financial assistance to the developing countries for the purposes of implementing the Convention and promoting their sustainable economic development.

23. His Government had also signed the major conventions relating to drug trafficking, such as the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Recalling that all States must cooperate and were jointly responsible for international efforts, he said that since 1996 his Government, for example, had adopted several initiatives to revise its legislation and had created a National Commission on Drugs as well as a coordinating office for the fight against drugs. It had also developed an integrated economic and social development programme for the northern provinces of the Kingdom and allocated considerable material, financial and human resources to the fight against drug-related problems in its territory. In March 2001, the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), during a visit to Morocco, had welcomed the Government's willingness to cooperate with the international community in the fight against the cultivation of cannabis. A mission from the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) had also recently visited Morocco as part of a continuing process of dialogue and consultation with its authorities.

24. **Mr. Kasemsarn** (Thailand), speaking on agenda item 111, said that despite the tireless efforts of the international community illicit drugs continued to pose a serious threat to society. He expressed concern in particular about the link between drug abuse and other problems such as the spread of HIV/AIDS, trafficking in persons, the illicit trade in small arms, money laundering and corruption and about the role of drug production and trafficking as important sources of financial support for criminal groups and transnational organized crime, including terrorist groups. The increase in the abuse of synthetic substances such as methamphetamines and Ecstasy, in particular by young people was also alarming. As a result, his Government had made the fight against narcotic drugs one of its priorities and had literally declared war on drugs.

25. Although Heads of State and Government had announced their resolve in the Millennium Declaration, concrete strategies were necessary to deal not only with issues such as supply and demand but also related areas such as alternative development, legal frameworks and law enforcement, rehabilitation and social integration of drug addicts and capacity-building. One of the most important preventive measures was alternative development, which would help combat the drug problem at its roots. Partnerships must also be built between countries, be they donors or recipients, and at all levels of society: governments, civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, and experience and information must be shared.

26. At the regional level his Government had intensified cooperation with its neighbours in

South-East Asia, in particular China, within the framework of the Plan of Action on ASEAN-China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs. That plan involved cooperation in four major areas: increased civic awareness, demand reduction, strengthened control measures and elimination of supply by promotion of alternative development programmes and community participation. His Government had also committed itself to the ASEAN objective of working towards a drug-free region by the year 2015 and had proclaimed 2002 and 2003 the ASEAN Drugs Awareness Years.

27. His Government and the Government of Myanmar had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control, according to which the two countries agreed to cooperate in areas such as drug abuse prevention, law enforcement, control of illicit crops, alternative development, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, joint assistance programmes and exchange of information. Furthermore, it was working closely with Myanmar, Laos and China to strengthen efforts to control narcotic drugs. To that end, the four countries had held meetings at the senior official level and, subsequently, at the ministerial level.

28. In that connection, he welcomed the determination of neighbouring countries, in particular Myanmar, to cooperate in eradicating narcotic drugs and illicit drug crops and halting illicit drug flows within the next five years. He welcomed in particular the statement by the delegate from Myanmar with regard to that Government's concerted efforts to eradicate the drug problem. The Thai Government stood ready to provide assistance and share experience at the bilateral and international levels, in particular with UNDCP as it pursued its noble goal and, in that context, underscored the importance of implementing crop substitution programmes. The international community should lend its support to such regional efforts, in particular by facilitating market access for substitute crops, which was essential for the long-term success of the alternative development programme.

29. **Mr. Ling** (Belarus), speaking also on behalf of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation on agenda item 110, said that globalization provided particularly favourable conditions for the development of transnational organized crime, which affected a growing number of countries and was becoming a real threat to the political and socio-economic systems of entire regions. It was in that context that Belarus and the above-mentioned countries had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was the first binding international legal instrument to be adopted in that regard. In order to ensure its rapid entry into force, however, the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP), which was responsible for ensuring implementation, must be provided with the resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, in particular with regard to promoting exchanges of information and providing technical assistance to countries as they implemented the Convention and its protocols. The technical assistance provided by the Centre for those purposes should be seen as an investment rather than as a cost. With particular reference to the fight against corruption, which was closely linked to the fight against transnational organized crime, his delegation welcomed and was fully prepared to participate in efforts to draft a United Nations convention against corruption, in the near future.

30. Fully aware that the fight against transnational organized crime must begin at the national, subregional and regional levels, the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) attached great importance to the establishment of a system for cooperation between their Governments and to the adoption of measures to strengthen the enforcement of national laws in conformity with international instruments. In June 2000, they had adopted an intergovernmental programme to fight transnational organized crime for the period 2002-2003 and in March 2001 had organized an international conference on reinforcing cooperation for law enforcement in the fight against crime, international terrorism and other extreme categories of crime. Within the framework of that cooperation, in 2000 the law enforcement agencies of the CIS member States had arrested 21,000 criminals, dismantled 2,600 criminal groups and seized nearly 160,000 weapons.

31. It had become clear that international terrorism posed a particularly dangerous threat. The CIS was in the vanguard of the fight against that phenomenon thanks to the creation in December 2000 of a permanent centre for coordinating the activities of the member States' various bodies responsible for the fight against terrorism. One of the centre's priorities was to assemble a database on terrorism and on the legislative

and administrative provisions adopted by CIS member States to counteract that phenomenon.

32. The success of efforts to combat terrorism would depend on the quality of international cooperation to that end, which must be organized and supported by all.

33. **Mr. Tekin** (Turkey) said that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 had once again highlighted the increasingly close links between terrorism and organized crime. Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) had been an important step forward in the fight against terrorism, because it put particular emphasis on eliminating the sources of financing of terrorism and on international cooperation. His Government had long advocated the establishment of a system of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fields of law enforcement and legal assistance. He called on Member States to work to strengthen the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP).

34. His Government would soon ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its optional protocols but would have preferred that it contain a clear reference to the relationship between terrorism and organized crime.

35. Turning to agenda item 111, he said that the multidimensional nature of the worldwide drug problem necessitated an integrated approach which took into account the underlying economic, social and political factors. Drug trafficking was also one of the major sources of financing for arms trafficking by terrorist organizations. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation between law enforcement authorities was essential and his Government had therefore expanded its training activities for other countries. In August 2000, it had inaugurated an international academy to combat drugs and organized crime within the framework of the multi-year programme implemented jointly by Turkey and the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). He was happy to note that the academy, which served as a forum for exchange of expertise and provided training facilities to the countries of the region, had already organized more than 20 regional and national training courses and meetings.

36. His Government would continue to combat money-laundering and corruption but recognized that international cooperation in that area was also essential. He therefore urged the timely completion of an international legal instrument against corruption and said the ad hoc committee should duly consider the indicative elements contained in the draft terms of reference for the negotiation of the United Nations convention against corruption.

37. Turning to the issue of trafficking in persons, an issue of particular concern to his delegation because of his country's geographical location, he said his Government was doing its utmost to combat that phenomenon but that, once again, reinforced international cooperation was necessary to address the root causes of that problem.

38. **Mr. Abdul Aziz** (Brunei Darussalam), speaking on agenda item 111, deplored the increased traffic in and abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances in his country, particularly among the younger population, in view of which Brunei was pursuing a strategy for reducing drug supply and demand. To that end, his country had enacted a number of laws punishing, inter alia, drug abuse and money laundering, and making the laundering of proceeds of drug trafficking a crime.

39. Brunei Darussalam continued to support the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and called on the international community to cooperate in that field. In accordance with the Action Plan, it had expanded its drug-abuse prevention activities among children and young people by, for instance, education programmes that called for parent participation, and lectures and exhibitions that would reach out to all segments of society.

40. Brunei Darussalam renewed its support for the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate or reduce significantly the manufacture and marketing of and trafficking in psychotropic substances by 2008, and continued its collaboration with the other member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which had set itself the target of a drug-free region by 2015. It also unreservedly endorsed the regional action plan adopted for that purpose, especially in view of the rapid spread of synthetic drugs — in particular amphetamine-type stimulants — in the region.

41. **Mr. Ahmed** (Iraq) said that his country paid close attention to the international community's action to combat drug abuse, which posed a threat to society as a whole and to young people in particular. Given its

multiple facets, it could be overcome only by dint of international cooperation.

42. At the national level, the Iraqi Government had established a national commission to combat the abuse of alcohol and psychotropic substances; the commission enjoyed the cooperation of the country's Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and the Interior so that Iraq could fully discharge the commitments it had made under the relevant international instruments to which it was a party, namely the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

43. That commission was an addition to a long-standing drug-control mechanism. Since Iraq's geographical location between drug-producing and drug-consuming countries could make it a transit country, it had undertaken very early on to combat drugs through legislative and regulatory measures in the field of security and health and by strengthening the drug law of 1956, which punished drug cultivation and trafficking. That was why it was one of the few countries not affected by the illicit traffic in and abuse of drugs, as abundant national, regional and international statistics attested.

44. The same could not be said of Iraqi Kurdistan, an autonomous region of the country, where the cultivation of plants used in drug manufacture was widespread and drug trafficking had increased, a state of affairs of which Iraq had apprised the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention as early as 1992. In addition, in 2000 the Iraqi law-enforcement authorities had seized 570,000 kilograms of hashish, 10,500 kilograms of opium and 1,070 kilograms of heroin. Consequently, illicit drug trafficking in that area posed a serious threat to the country's security and that of its neighbours, which had become transit countries. The Iraqi Government appealed to the international community to help put an end to that traffic.

45. **Ms. Gligorova** (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that crime, in particular in its new transnational dimensions, threatened the stability and security of all countries, whatever their level of development. Its new upsurge was all the more serious since, as shown by events in South-East Europe in the previous 10 years, international terrorism was closely linked to some types of crime (illicit traffic in arms and drugs, money laundering, etc.). The adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto was a major step in the fight against transnational organized crime, because it had opened a new perspective for United Nations activities and had reinforced the capacity of States to deal with the problem.

46. Her country was currently revising its legislation with a view to improving its prevention and management of certain forms of crime that were particularly rife in the region in which it was situated, and was in the process of adopting a law against corruption and a law against money laundering. It was also very much involved in the international activities against transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking. It was endeavouring to develop the direct cooperation it had established on that issue with other countries, especially in the context of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe.

47. The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session were extremely important for the international struggle against illicit drug trafficking and related problems; it was therefore crucial for the Member States of the Organization to honour the commitment they had undertaken, when adopting them, to enforce them both nationally and internationally. Her country was fully committed to cooperating with other States and with the competent international organizations to that end. It also played an active part in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, of which it was a member, and to which, during the recent developments on its territory, it had recently furnished further proof of the close link between illicit drug trafficking and various other forms of criminal activity. In that connection, she would like the United Nations, and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in particular, to strengthen their activities in the region and, together with her country and its neighbouring countries, to better coordinate the action against illicit drug trafficking and related crimes perpetrated there.

48. **Mr. Maertens** (United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention, United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said that the Centre had recently published the findings of its annual survey on poppy cultivation in Afghanistan.

49. With regard to the priority assigned to Africa in the Centre's activities, he assured the African delegations which had expressed concerns in that regard that the Centre had for several years been following the situation with regard to the steady increase in the number of drug addicts in Africa, the ensuing HIV/AIDS epidemic and the upsurge in the traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the region. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was aware of the situation through the good offices of the Centre, had asked the Centre to redouble its efforts to combat drugs in Africa and draw up a strategy in that regard, in collaboration with the African countries. The strategy was being prepared and would be ready for adoption by the end of 2001. The Centre's budget proposals for the next biennium included a 117 per cent increase in appropriations for its activities in Africa and the establishment of an office for the southern African countries.

50. **Mr. Vetere** (Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said that 2001 had been a year of intense work for his Office, as well as for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as evidenced by the number of projects that had been submitted to the General Assembly for its approval. An extremely complex and difficult debate had been necessary before the Commission had been able to adopt its draft resolution on plans of action to implement the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice adopted in 2000 at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and reach agreement on the inclusion in its report of a special chapter on national and international actions to be carried out in order to fight computer-related crime.

51. With regard to the fight against terrorism, a question which concerned many Member States and to which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had devoted a chapter of its report, he said that the Commission had for quite some time been considering what its role should be in that field, bearing in mind the tragic events of 11 September 2001. The question had been raised at its meeting of 25 September and would be considered again at its meeting in Vienna on 15 November, when it would decide whether to convene an intersessional meeting on the fight against terrorism. The Commission would surely turn to the General Assembly for guidance and financing for those activities, with a view to improving the quality of its programmes and reinforcing its capacities in the fields of technical cooperation and training.

52. Finally, he noted with satisfaction that the countries had referred to the necessity and the timeliness of expediting the process of ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto so as to ensure that an appropriate implementation mechanism could be set up in the near future.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.